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VIRAL DISEASES

VVD-057

NO EVIDENCE OF PCV2 INFECTION OF PIGLETS IN 60 DANISH SOW HERDS

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Introduction

Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) infection in sows can result in irregular rebreeders, abortion and weak newborn piglets. The extent of PCV2 related reproductive problems and impact on the status of suckling piglets has never been investigated in Denmark. Hence, this study investigated the occurrence of PCV2 in piglets.

Material & Methods

Piglets aged 1-21 days sent, by the herd veterinarian, to SEGES Laboratory for Pig Disease for necropsy were included in the study. Cases including three or more piglets were evaluated pathologically and the iliac and inguinal lymph nodes were collected. The lymph nodes were pooled submission wise and tested for PCV2 by qPCR with a detection level of 10³ copies pr. 500 ng extracted total DNA. Sample size calculations suggested 60 herds to be an appropriate sample size, with the assumption that PCV2 could be detected in piglets in 5% of the Danish sow herds.

Results

In total, 63 submissions including 501 piglets from 60 herds were included. The most common anamnesis from the submitting herds were enteric diseases and unspecific health problems such as increased mortality and unthrifty piglets. The anamneses given could not be related to the PCV2 status of the piglet, as none of the lymph node pools were positive for PCV2.

Conclusion & Discussion

The included herds all experienced piglet health problems, indicated by the need for laboratory services. The negative outcome of test of piglets from the 60 herds strongly indicated that PCV2 does not possess a major health problem for piglets in Danish sow herds. Further research is needed to investigate if the impaired health of the piglets is related to PCV2 infections in the sows.